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The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

From *Tuesday March* 21. to *Thursday March* 23. 1709.

From my own Apartment, March 22.

IT has often been a solid Grief to me, when I have reflected on this glorious Nation, which is the Scene of publick Happiness and Liberty, that there are still Crowds of private Tyrants, against whom there neither is any Law now in Being, nor can there be invented any by the Wit of Man. These cruel Men are ill-natured Husbands. The Commerce in the Conjugal State is so delicate, that it is impossible to prescribe Rules for the Conduct of it, so as to fit Ten Thousand nameless Pleasures and Disquietudes which arise to People in that Condition. But it is in this as in some other nice Cases, where touching upon the Malady tenderly, is half Way to the Cure; and there are some Faults which need only to be observed to be amended. I am put into this Way of thinking by a late Conversation which I am going to give an Account of.

I made a Visit the other Day to a Family for which I have a great Honour, and found the Father, the Mother, and Two or Three of the younger Children, drop off designedly to leave me alone with the eldest Daughter, who was but a Visitant there as well as my self, and is the Wife of a Gentleman of a very fair Character in the World. As soon as we were alone, I saw her Eyes full of Tears, and methought she had much to say to me, for which she wanted Encouragement. Madam, said I, you know I wish you all as well as any Friend you have: Speak freely what I see you are oppress'd with, and you may be sure, if I cannot relieve your Distress, you may at least reap so much present Advantage, as safely to give your self the Ease of uttering it. She immediately assumed the most becoming Composure of Countenance, and spoke as follows: "It is an Aggravation of Affliction in a married Life, that there is a sort of Guilt in communicating it: For which Reason it is, that a Lady of your and my Acquaintance, instead of speaking to you her self, desired me the next Time I saw you, as you are a professed Friend to our Sex, to turn your Thoughts upon the reciprocal Complaisance which is the Duty of a married State.

'My Friend was neither in Fortune, Birth or Education, below the Gentleman whom she has married. Her Person, her Age, and her Character, are also such as he can make no Exception to. But so it is, that from the Moment the Marriage-Ceremony was over, the Obsequiousness of a Lover was turned into the Haughtiness of a Master. All the kind Endeavours which she uses to please him, are at best but so many Instances of her Duty. This Insolence takes away that secret Satisfaction, which does not only excite to Virtue, but also rewards it. It abates the Fire of a free and generous Love, and imbitters all the Pleasures of a social Life. The young Lady spoke all this with such an Air of Resentment, as discovered how nearly she was concerned in the Distress.

When I observed she had done speaking, Madam, said I, the Affliction you mention is the greatest that can happen in Human Life, and I know but one Consolation in it, if that be a Consolation, that the Calamity is a pretty general one. There is nothing so common as for Men to enter into Marriage, without so much as expecting to be happy in it. They seem to propose to themselves a few Holidays in the Beginning of it; after which they are to return at best to the usual Course of their Life; and for ought they know, to constant Misery and Uneasiness. From this false Sense of the State they are going into, proceeds the immediate Coldness and Indifference, or Hatred and Aversion, which attend ordinary Marriages, or rather bargains to cohabit. Our Conversation was here interrupted by Company which came in upon us.

The Humour of affecting a superior Carriage, generally arises from a false Notion of the Weakness of a Female Understanding in general, or an over-weaning Opinion that we have of our own: For when it proceeds from a natural Ruggedness and Brutality of Temper, it is altogether incorrigible, and not to be amended by Admonition. Sir *Francis Bacon*, as I remember, lays it down as a Maxim, That no Marriage can be happy in which the Wife has no Opinion of her Husband's Wisdom; but without Offence to so great an Authority, I may venture to say, That a sullen-wise Man is as bad as a good-natured Fool. Kdowledge, softened with Complacency and good Breeding, will make a Man equally beloved and respected; but when joined with a severe, distant and unsociable Temper, it creates rather Fear than Love. I who am a Batcheler, have no other Notion of Conjugal Tenderness, but what I learn from Books, and shall therefore produce Three Letters of *Pliny*, who was not only one of the greatest, but the most learned Men in the whole *Roman* Empire. At the same Time I am very much ashamed, that on such Occasions I am obliged to have Recourse to Heathen Authors, and shall appeal to my Readers, if they would not think it a Mark of a narrow Education in a Man of Quality to write such passionate Letters to any Woman but a Mistress. They were all Three written at a Time when she was at a Distance from him: The first of them puts me in Mind of a married Friend of Mine, who said, Sickness it self is pleasant to a Man that is attended in it by one whom he dearly loves.

Pliny to *Calpburnia*.

'I Never was so much offended at Business, as when it hindered me from going with you into the Country, or following you thither: For I more particularly wish to be with you at present, that I might be sensible of the Progress you make in the Recovery of your Strength and Health;

'Health; as also of the Entertainment and Diversions you can meet with in your Retirement. Believe me, it is an anxious State of Mind to live in Ignorance of what happens to those whom we passionately love. I am not only in Pain for your Absence, but also for your Indisposition. I am afraid of every Thing, fancy every Thing, and, as it is the Nature of Men in Fear, I fancy those Things most which I am most afraid of. Let me therefore earnestly desire you to favour me under these my Apprehensions with One Letter every Day, or, if possible, with Two; for I shall be a little at Ease while I am reading your Letters, and grow anxious again as soon as I have read them.

Second LETTER.

'YOU tell me, That you are very much afflicted at my Absence, and that you have no Satisfaction in any thing but my Writings, which you often lay by you upon my Pillow. You oblige me very much in wishing to see me, and making me your Comforter in my Absence. In Return, I must let you know, I am no less pleas'd with the Letters which you write to me, and read them over a Thousand times with new Pleasure. If your Letters are capable of giving me so much Pleasure, what would your Conversation do. Let me beg of you to write to me often; tho' at the same Time I must confess, your Letters give me Anguish whilst they give me Pleasure.

Third LETTER.

'IT is impossible to conceive how much I languish for you in your Absence; the tender Love I bear you, is the chief Cause of this my Uneasiness, which is still the more insupportable, because Absence is wholly a new Thing to us. I lie awake most Part of the Night in thinking of you, and several Times of the Day go as naturally to your Apartment, as if you were there to receive me; but when I miss you, I come away dejected, out of Humour, and like a Man that had suffer'd a Repulse. There is but one Part of the Day in which I am relieved from this Anxiety, and that is when I am engaged in Publick Affairs.

'You may guess at the uneasy Condition of one who has no Rest but in Business, no Consolation but in Trouble.

I shall conclude this Paper with a beautiful Passage out of *Milton*, and leave it as a Lecture to those of my own Sex, who have a Mind to make their Conversation agreeable as well as instructive, to the Fair Partners who are fallen into their Care. *Eve* having observ'd, That *Adam* was entring into some deep Disquisitions with the Angel, who was sent to visit him, is described as retiring from their Company, with a Design of learning what should pass there from her Husband.

So spake our Sire, and by his Count'nance seem'd
Entring on studious Thoughts abstruse, which Eve
Perceiving where she sat retir'd in Sight,
With lowliness Majestick from her Seat,
Rose, and went forth among her Fruits and Flowers,
Yet went she not, as not with such Discourse
Delighted, or not capable her Ear
Of what was high: Such Pleasure she reserv'd,
Adam relating, she sole Auditress;
Her Husband the Relater she preferr'd
Before the Angel, and of him to ask
Chose rather: He, she knew would intermix
Grateful Digressions, and solve high Dispute
With Conjugal Caresses, from his Lip
Not Words alone pleas'd her. O! When meet now
Such Pairs, in Love and mutual Honour join'd?

Errata *in the last* Tatler: *Col.* 2. *Line* 8. *for* Kickshaws, *read* Fricacies. *L.* 11. *for* hale, *read* hale. *Col.* 3. *L.* 17. *for* Side of the Table, *read* Side-Table. *L.* 50. *for* could, *read* would. *L.* 51. *for* Landskip, *read* Picture.

Advertisements.

*** PROPOSALS for Printing the LUCUBRATIONS of Isaac Bickerstaff Esq; by Subscriptions, in Two Volumes in Octavo, on a Large Character, and Fine Royal Paper, are to be seen, and Subscriptions taken, at Charles Lillie's, a Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings in the Strand, and John Morphew's near Stationers-Hall. All Persons that design to subscribe to this Work, are desired to send their Subscriptions with all Expedition, the Book being put to Press, in order to have it publish'd before Easter.

ON Friday the 31st of this Instant March, in the Great Room in York-Buildings, will be perform'd, a Consort of Musick for the Benefit of Mr. Viner.

NOtice is hereby given to any of Her Majesty's Seamen or Soldiers, that have or may receive any Defect, as Cataracts, or other Prejudice in their Eyes, in Her Majesty's Service, That they may timely apply themselves to Sir William Read, Her Majesty's Oculist, at his House in Durham-Yard in the Strand, London; where he will constantly be himself or his Lady, that all due Care, Attendance and Medicines, may be given them gratis, as he hath at his own Charge constantly done ever since the Beginning of the War, being above 20 Years: Which charitable Work no Person performs but himself, who hath made many fit for the Service that otherwise would have been useless, and no small Charge to the Government. Note, by his long Course of Practice, and great Experience, he is the only Person that couches Cataracts without Pain or much Confinement, and hath a Medicine that prevents Cataracts in the Beginning, and strengthens and preserves the Sight.

MEn's Morning Gowns, of rich Silks, Stuffs, Calicoes, &c. (*being the Goods of a Person that failed*) *to be disposed of at very low Rates; may be seen at the Olive-Tree and Still within three Doors of Tuting Man's Coffee-House, against the Horse at Charing-Cross. The Prices being set on each Gown. Catalogues of the Particulars may be had at the Place of Sale.*

** To be printed by Subscription, The History of the Life and Acts of the most Rev. Father in God, Edm. Grindal, 1st Bishop of London, and 2d Archbishop of York and Canterbury successively, after Q. Elizabeth's Accession to the Crown. Wherein is shewn that most Rev. Prelate's pious and useful Labours in the Reformation and Government of the Church of England. In this History will appear the State of this Church, Succession of its Bishops, Indulgence towards the Churches of Foreigners planted here, and other Affairs relating to Religion in the Time of this Archbishop. Also an Appendix of Original MS. transcribed from the best Archives. By John Strype, M. A. N. B. The Book being now in the Press, all Gentlemen who intend to subscribe to it, are desired to send in their Names before the 20th of April next (at which Time the Book will be deliver'd) to the Author, or John Hartley, between the Two Temple Gates in Fleetstreet, where printed Proposals may be had.

A Gentleman who the 20th Instant had the Honour to conduct a Lady out of a Boat at Whitehall-Stairs, desires to know where he may wait on her, to disclose a Matter of Concern. A Letter directed to Mr. Samuel Reeves, to be left with Mr. Ray at the Golden-Head the upper End of New Southampton-street, Covent-Garden, will come safe to his Hand.

A Catalogue of choice Medals, lately collected in Turkey, Greece, Egypt, Persia and Georgia: Amongst which are many Arabick and Persian Coins; a Brass Otho, Silver Pescinus Niger; several Syrian Kings, &c. Also a Parcel of curious Antique Heads for Seals; and other valuable Stones, some with Arabick, and other Foreign Inscriptions. To be sold by Auction in about 300 Lots, at the Rose Tavern without Temple-bar, on Monday the 3d of April next. The Sale to begin at 3 in the Afternoon, where Catalogues may be had on Monday next, and at most Coffee-houses in London. The Medals to be seen 2 Days before Sale at the Place of Sale.

A Large convenient House, with Stables, Out-houses, and Dove-house; a very fine Garden, with a Green-house, and fine Greens; several large Canals, supplied from a famous Trout River, at Mourdon in Surrey, 7 Miles from London, being the Seat of the late Richard Garth Esq; All to be lett by Lease, with or without twenty Acres of Meadow Land, by Mr. Stone in Great St. Helens.

HEyden in Essex, the Mansion House late of Sir Peter Soame, Bar. deceased, situate in a pleasant Country Seat, 16 Miles from Newmarket, 30 from London, and 9 from Cambridge, with the Stables, Outhouses, Gardens, Bowling-Green, and any Quantity of Land, more or less, is to be lett furnished or unfurnished, at a reasonable Rent. Enquire of Mrs. Chute at her House in Berkley-Street, Piccadilly; or of Mr. Enoc Cooper at the Blue Boar in Holborn, where Particulars are to be had.

☞ The Painful or Running Piles, either Outward or Inward, which do often end in Fistula's when neglected, are cured in 5 Days Time, by a pleasant Specifick Electuary, at 5 s. the Gally-pot, which is sufficient for one Cure. Sold only by Mrs. Smith, who lodges at the Sign of the Sun without Ludgate, at the Corner of Bell-Savage-Inn, a Mercer's Shop.

THE finest Imperial Tea 18 s. Bohee, 12 s. 16 s. 20 s. and 24 s. all Sorts of Green, the lowest 12 s. Turkey Coffee 6 s. Chocolate with Sugar, 1 s. 8 d. and 2 s. All Nut, 2 s. 6 d. and 3 s. the finest of Loaf Sugar, 11 d. a Pound to them that buy Tea. Any is free to tast of Tea and Coffee that wants a Quantity: And an entire Parcel of Snuff just come from Spain. To be sold by R. Tate at the Star in Bedford-Court near Bedford-street, Covent-Garden.

Sold by *John Morphew* near *Stationers-Hall*; where Advertisements are taken in.